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SUBJECT Unrest the Caucasus

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1. During the first two weeks of Jan 1954, various informants reported that there were incidents at Mingrelia, at Kaban, and at the coal and manganese mines in Georgia. Miners were protesting against living conditions.
2. In Mingrelia, there was a collision between the miners and the guards. In the fighting there were three or four casualties. These seem to have been wounds only and to have been on both sides.
3. In the Kaban mines there was a similar collision. This resulted in some dead and wounded; but there are no details.
4. In the coal and manganese mines in Georgia, the miners wanted to strike. Troops prevented them from doing so. Source specifically says "troops from the army," which may mean the MVD (Ministry of Internal Affairs) internal forces were not used.
5. On 19 Jan 54, Commissar Ilya Rabikhev, in charge of Communist youth organizations near Derbent, was assassinated and his body was thrown into the Bougan River near Djemikent, north of Derbent. The act is attributed to nationalist guerrillas. They are supposed to have belonged to the band of Meria Nogaitay, known to be lurking in or near Mount Djalgan.

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